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WASH

Panel Denies Funds For Little Pentagon

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The House Military Appropriations subcommittee has rejected a request for funds to begin construction of the "Little Pentagon" office building at Bolling Air Force Base, which has been planned to house 10,000 Defense Department employees.

For the second year in a row the full Appropriations Committee today is expected to uphold the subcommittee decision to deny funds for the structure, which has an estimated cost of \$145 million.

The Little Pentagon has been cited by Defense officials as the key to a \$1.5 billion building program to consolidate Washington area military facilities.

Subcommittee members, however, said the department has not shown them the government would save any money from construction of the 1.8 million-square-foot building.

Congress authorized a \$16.2 million appropriation to begin Little Pentagon construction last year.

But the appropriation committee then refused to recommend the release of the funds.

Earlier this year, the city government, which had opposed the office building plan because it had hoped to construct housing on the Bolling site, switched its stand. Now it favors building employment centers in Southeast Washington.

During subcommittee hearings in June, Chairman Robert L. F.

Sikes, D-Fla., asked Defense officials how much money they would save by consolidating area military facilities. They were unable to answer.

Subcommittee members also criticized the effectiveness of the department's efforts to decrease some of its operations here by spreading them throughout the country.

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